



BLACK HISTORY MONTH *TOOLKIT*

2023

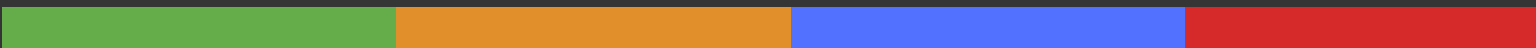


North Carolina African American
Heritage Commission

The NC African American Heritage Commission believes that celebrating and sharing the history and heritage of African Americans goes beyond the month of February. This February, and every month we continue our work to preserve, protect and promote North Carolina's African American history, arts, and culture for all people.

The following is a small collection of resources to assist you in celebrating Black History Month. We encourage you to interact with this toolkit by clicking on corresponding links for items that have been curated to enrich your sense of creativity and community. This 2023 Black History Month Toolkit is a testament to North Carolina's vibrant culture and brilliant future.

Be sure to Tag and Follow us on social media!



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HISTORY OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Did you know that the origins of Black History Month date back to 1915? At that time, a gentleman named Dr. Carter G. Woodson traveled to Chicago to participate and present at Illinois' celebration for the 50th anniversary of emancipation. This event inspired him to form an organization dedicated to the scientific study of black life and history, which came to be known as the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (currently known as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History) which led to the creation of Negro History and Literature Week.

Why February? It is believed Dr. Woodson chose it because it encompasses both Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass' birthdays, two individuals who greatly shaped black history. Through the 1920s, celebration of the week grew and by the 1940s, the study of black history within the black community expanded. In 1976, the Association worked to officially expand the week to a month. Since that time, every American president has issued proclamations based on the Association's annual theme.

Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson was a noted historian, Black author, editor, and publisher, known for his role in establishing Black History Month and founding the Association for the Study of African American Life and History



CALENDAR

2023 BLACK HISTORY MONTH TOOLKIT

NORTH CAROLINA CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

CALENDAR
EVENTS

2023 Black History Month Calendar

PROGRAM
UPDATES

2023 Black History Month Website

NC BLACK HISTORY MONTH READ-IN LIST

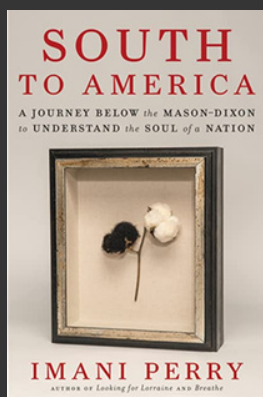
Stay in and read with us!



ABOUT THE CURATOR

Harvey Long is an assistant professor and librarian at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. He provides research assistance and works closely with academic support units to ensure the success of all students. Long, a native of Yanceyville, North Carolina, lives in Greensboro.

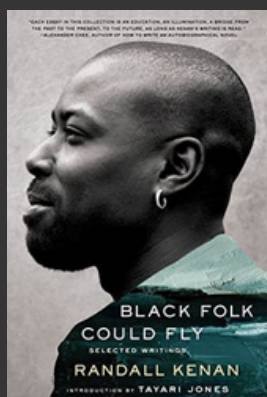
NC BLACK HISTORY MONTH READ-IN LIST



*South to America:
A Journey Below the Mason-Dixon to
Understand the Soul of a Nation*

NONFICTION

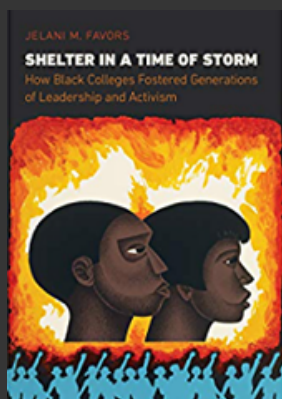
by Imani Perry



Black Folk Could Fly: Selected Writings

NONFICTION

by Randall Kenan



*Shelter in a Time of Storm: How Black
Colleges Fostered Generations of
Leadership and Activism*

NONFICTION

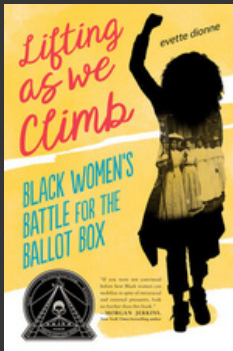
by Jelani M. Favors

ADULT



Search for these titles and more through
the State Library of North Carolina!

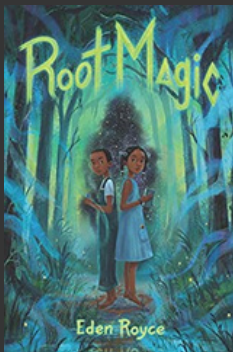
NC BLACK HISTORY MONTH READ-IN LIST



*Lifting As We Climb: Black
Women's Battle for the Ballot Box*

NONFICTION

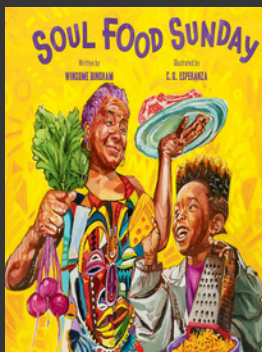
by Evette Dionne



Root Magic

FICTION

by Eden Royce



Soul Food Sunday

FICTION

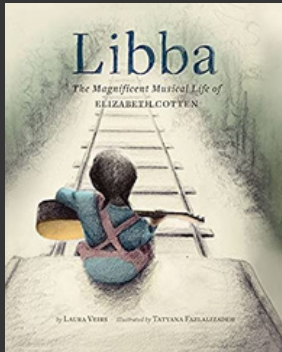
by Winsome Bingham

YOUTH



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the State Library of North Carolina!

NC BLACK HISTORY MONTH READ-IN LIST



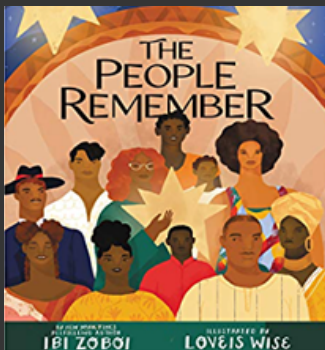
*Libba: The Magnificent Musical
Life of Elizabeth Cotten*

NONFICTION
by Laura Veirs



Nina: A Story of Nina Simone

NONFICTION
by Traci N. Todd



The People Remember

NONFICTION
by Ibi Zoboi

PICTURE BOOK



Search for these titles and more through the
State Library of North Carolina!

NC BLACK HISTORY MONTH PLAYLISTS

THE SOUL OF NORTH CAROLINA



LISTEN NOW

from the curator:

Soul lives and resides in North Carolina. This playlist features both iconic legends and emerging talent. From Gospel to Blues to Funk to R&B, North Carolina has birthed musical pioneers across genres, and each artist brings with them a southern sonic aesthetic that equally represents the artist and the south.

- Kyesha Jennings

THE MUSIC OF EASTERN NC



LISTEN NOW

from the curator:

For at least a century, African American musicians from Kinston and the surrounding region have played key roles in the development of several forms of American music: jazz, rhythm and blues, funk, and gospel music. We invite you to explore the long and rich heritage of Black music in Eastern North Carolina. This playlist celebrates some of the most transformative figures in the history of jazz, gospel, and popular music.

- Kyesha Jennings

NORTH CAROLINA INSPIRES



LISTEN NOW

from the curator:

Whether they are vibing out with a father figure to Pierce Freelon's "Daddy Daughter Day" or singing the uplifting lyrics to Pat Junior's "Black Beamin,'" this family-friendly list of songs by North Carolina artists will inspire listeners of all ages to believe in themselves.

- Kyesha Jennings

PROGRAMS

2023 BLACK HISTORY MONTH TOOLKIT



AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSIC TRAILS OF NORTH CAROLINA

African American Music Trails is an exploration of the long and rich heritage of African American music in Eastern North Carolina. The abundance of this music and its musicians is one of the state's best kept secrets. Funk, blues, jazz, and gospel in Kinston, Tarboro, Wilson and everywhere in between.



[LEARN MORE](#)

NC CIVIL RIGHTS TRAIL

For generations, people in North Carolina have used spaces and spaces to organize, strategize and protest to advance the civil rights of people of color, especially African Americans. In honor of this work, we are joining communities across the state to physically mark sites critical to the Civil Rights Movement in North Carolina. Between 2021 and 2023, we will place 50 markers in counties across the state, highlighting and acknowledging tireless civil rights efforts that are well known and, in some cases, unsung. Ten of these markers will be placed in Hometown Strong counties.



[LEARN MORE](#)

AFRICA TO CAROLINA

The Africa to Carolina initiative serves to **identify, acknowledge** and **mark** sites in North Carolina where enslaved Africans disembarked directly from the African Continent. Explore our newly launched web portal to learn more.



[LEARN MORE](#)

NC GREEN BOOK PROJECT

“The Negro Motorist Green Book,” published between 1936 and 1966, was both a travel guide and a tool of resistance designed to confront the realities of racial discrimination in the United States and beyond. The book listed over 300 North Carolina businesses—from restaurants and hotels, to tourist homes, nightclubs and beauty salons—in the three decades that it was published. The exhibit highlights a complex statewide network of business owners and Green Book sites that allowed African American communities to thrive, and that created “oasis spaces” for a variety of African American travelers.



[LEARN MORE](#)

The North Carolina

African American

Heritage

Commission

OUR MISSION

The North Carolina General Assembly created the African American Heritage Commission (AAHC) in 2008 to “assist the Secretary of Cultural Resources in the preservation, interpretation, and promotion of African American history, arts, and culture.” With this legislation the AAHC has identified African American heritage practitioners, such as curators, docents, and museum directors, as priority service populations. The AAHC was recognized as a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources in 2017, after being housed in the Office of Archives and History and the North Carolina Arts Council. The Commission works across the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources to achieve the mission of preserving, protecting, and promoting North Carolina’s African American history, art, and culture, for all people.

Stay connected with us!

WEBSITE

YOUTUBE

